

## Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AF-10 SAB-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01

/161 W

----- 043485

R 191425Z DEC 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4784

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

:AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV 3540

USUMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3354

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 4129

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REACTION TO ROME TERRORIST ATTACK  
AND HIJACKING

REF: CAIRO 4089

1. DECEMBER 19 EGYPTIAN PRESS REACTION TO MOST RECENT  
ACT OF PALESTINIAN TERRORISM IS MIXED. AKHBAR AND  
GUMHURIYYA STRONGLY CONDEMN ROME ATTACK AND HIJACKING  
OF LUFTHANSA AIRCRAFT IN EDITORIALS, AND BOTH PAPERS  
PUBLISH REPORT OF CONDEMNATION OF INCIDENT BY EGYPTIAN  
PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY DECEMBER 18. GENERAL TENOR OF THESE  
TWO NEWSPAPERS' ARTICLES REFLECTS SHOCK OF WORLD COMMUNITY.  
AHAM, ON THE OTHER HAND, REPORTS EVENT, AND SURRENDER OF  
TERRORISTS IN KUWAIT IN SECONDARY SPACE ON PAGE ONE  
WITH NO SPECIAL EMPHASIS, WITHOUT TAKING NOTE OF PA  
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STATEMENT. AHAM ALSO HAS NO EDITORIALS ON SUBJECT

(COMMENT; FOR AHRAH, THIS IS AN UNUSUAL SILENCE).

2. OTHER THAN CONDEMNATION BY PA, ONLY SIGN OF OFFICIAL  
GOE REACTION IS REPORT THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENTIAL  
SPOKESMAN (WHOM WE UNDERSTAND TO BE TAHSIN BESHIR)  
DESCRIBED EVENT AS "TRAGIC, SENSELESS AND SADDENING."  
THIS STATEMENT WAS APPARENTLY RELEASED BY MENA BUT, FOR  
WHATEVER REASON, ONLY APPEARED IN EGYPTIAN LANGUAGE GAZETTE.

3. COMMENT: EGYPTIANS IN GENERAL APPEAR GENUINELY  
UNHAPPY ABOUT ROME KILLINGS. MOST, HOWEVER, SEEM PRONE TO  
ACCEPT THE THEORY THAT ROME TERRORISTS WERE IN SOME WAY  
CONNECTED WITH ISRAELIS, AND THAT ENTIRE MATTER MAY HAVE  
BEEN DESIGNED BY ZIONISTS TO THWART EGYPTIANS AND OTHER  
"GOOD ARABS" IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE SETTLEMENT.  
THIS VIEW HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY NEWS THAT MAIN-LINE  
FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE DISASSOCIATED THEMSELVES  
FROM THE ACT.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, PARAMILITARY FORCES, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PUBLIC ATTITUDES  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 DEC 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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